

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 1976-MC-FFS**

**DATE:** December 18, 2018

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Behavioral Health Intervention Service (BHIS) and Behavioral Health Service Providers

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC) and Fee-for-Service (FFS)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Code Update

**EFFECTIVE:** January 1, 2019

The new current procedural terminology (CPT®) codes have been released with changes in 2019 to include new CPT codes 97151-97158 and guidelines added to ABA treatment. Effective January 1, 2019, procedure codes H2014, H2019, H0031, H0032, S5108, and S5110 are no longer valid for ABA under the Iowa Medicaid FFS and MC programs. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes 97152, 97153, 97154, 97156, and G9012 should be billed for dates of service on or after January 1, 2019. Please reach out to your MCO representative to discuss existing authorizations that remain effective January 1, 2019.

ABA treatment is available to members with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. ABA services are individualized treatment services that focus on increasing positive behaviors and decreasing negative or interfering behaviors to improve a variety of well-defined skills. ABA services are highly structured and include incidental teaching, intentional environmental modifications, and reinforcement techniques to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior. ABA strategies include reinforcement, shaping, changing of behaviors, and other behavioral strategies to build specific targeted functional skills.

**Coverage of ABA includes:**

- **Behavior identification assessment** - Direct contact with the recipient (and collaterals as necessary) for the purposes of identification of deficient adaptive or maladaptive behaviors, completing an evaluation of the recipient's mental health and/or substance abuse disorder(s) to determine treatment needs and establish a treatment plan. This service may include psychological testing if indicated. (Service Code 97151)
- **Observational behavioral follow-up assessment** - Direct contact with the recipient (and collaterals as necessary) for the purposes of identification and evaluation factors that may impede the expression of adaptive behavior. This assessment utilizes structured observation and/or standardized and non-standardized test to determine adaptive behavior. This service may include psychological testing if indicated. (Service Code 97152)
- **Adaptive behavior treatment** - Direct contact with the recipient (and collaterals as necessary) for the purpose of addressing the patient's specific target problems and

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treatment goals as defined by the assessments. Adaptive behavior treatment is based on principles including analysis and alteration of contextual events and motivating factors, stimulus-consequence strategies and replacement behavior, and monitoring of outcome metrics. (Service Codes 97153 and 97154)

- **Family adaptive behavior treatment guidance** - Direct contact with the family/caregiver to provide specialized training and education to assist with the child's needs and development. The provider will observe, instruct, and train the family/caregivers on the child's development status, and techniques and strategies to promote the child's development that is established in the treatment plan. (Service Code 97156)
- **Clinical supervision and treatment planning development** - performed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or a Licensed Mental Health Professional (G9012).

Current HCPCS				New HCPCS Effective January 1, 2019			
Service Code	Modifier	Billing Unit	Medicaid FFS Rate	Service Code	Modifier	Billing Unit	Medicaid FFS Rate
H2014	HQ	15 minutes	\$ 5.56	97154	HQ	15 Minutes	\$ 5.56
H2014	HB	15 minutes	\$ 17.90	97154	HB	15 Minutes	\$ 17.90
H2014	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00	97154	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00
H2014	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97154	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
H2014	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97154	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
H2019	HQ	15 Minutes	\$ 5.56	97153	HQ	15 Minutes	\$ 5.56
H2019	HA	15 Minutes	\$ 21.88	97153	HA	15 Minutes	\$ 21.88
H2019	HR	15 Minutes	\$ 21.43	97153	HR	15 Minutes	\$ 21.43
H2019	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00	97153	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00
H2019	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97153	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
H2019	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97153	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
H0031		Hourly	\$ 93.67	97151		15 minutes	\$ 23.42
0031	HO	Hourly	\$ 125.00	97151	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25

				97152	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25
H0031	HP	Hourly	\$ 125.00	97151	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25
				97152	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25
H0032	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25	97152	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25
H0032	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25	97152	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 31.25
G9012	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	G9012	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
G9012	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	G9012	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
S5108	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00	97153	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00
S5108	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97153	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
S5108	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97153	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
S5110	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00	97156	HN	15 Minutes	\$ 15.00
S5110	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97156	HO	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00
S5110	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00	97156	HP	15 Minutes	\$ 25.00

Modifier	Modifier Description
HA	Child/Adolescent program
HB	Adult program, non-geriatric
HR	Family/Couple with client present
HQ	Group setting
HP	Doctoral level (board certified behavior analyst)
HO	Master's degree level (board certified behavior analyst)
HN	Assistant Behavior Analyst or Non-Certified Support Staff Modifier

The IME appreciates your continued partnership as we work to improve the claim processing service quality and accuracy. If you have questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).